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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 17 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the statement by the official spokesman of the Government of India on the mutual recognition between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel and on the agreement on Palestinian limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under agenda items 30 and 35.

(Signed) M. H. ANSARI
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement issued by the Government of India
on the Israeli-Palestinian agreement

India welcomes the mutual recognition by the State of Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, and the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement on Palestinian Self-Rule. These are notable steps towards ensuring of peace and stability in West Asia, which has been troubled by strife and discord for so many generations. The Government of India extend felicitations to Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and his negotiators for their courage in taking this first but essential step. India also notes the pragmatism and foresight of the Israeli leadership, especially Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres, in arriving at the present agreement. India, with her historic ties of friendship and socio-cultural links with the peoples of the region, will continue to extend its support to further efforts that will be undertaken towards peace in West Asia, and will lend its good offices whenever required towards confidence-building measures in the area. India expects that these historic steps forward would lead to further positive developments aimed at achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The agreements between Israel and Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, which are under discussion, when achieved, will introduce an era of regional amity, peace and prosperity, free from tension and conflict. India hopes for this prospect in the larger interests of world peace and stability.